MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

April 7, 2025

The Montgomery County Board of Education convened in a regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 6:30 pm in the Montgomery County Schools Boardroom. Board members present were Anne Evans - Board Chair, Lynn Epps – Vice-Chair, Tommy Blake, Angela Smith, Bryan Dozier, and Cindy Taylor. Isai Robledo was not present.

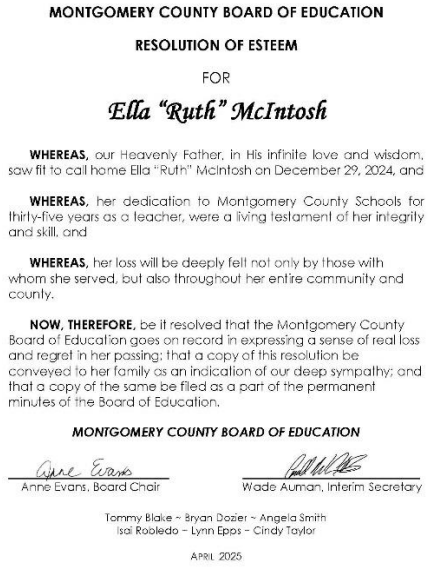
Board Chair Anne Evans called the meeting to order. Ms. Evans moved to adopt the agenda as submitted. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Lynn Epps seconding. The agenda was accepted with unanimous approval from the board.

Board Chair Anne Evans shared an opening with a poem entitled "The Little Seed". The little seed starts deep in the earth, unseen but it is there just waiting and growing. Just like that seed, we often face seasons in our lives where we may feel hidden or unsure, but God is always at work within us even if we cannot see it. Think about your life and the lives of our students. We know that we continue to grow, and they continue to grow even in quiet or difficult seasons. Ms. Evans then shared Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Star Elementary students, Dylan Amador Martinez and Yuneiry Reyes Jaimes, led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

No one signed up to speak during the public comments section.

A Resolution of Esteem for Ella "Ruth" McIntosh was presented to her family. Ms. McIntosh passed away on December 29, 2024. Board Chair Evans read the resolution as follows:



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION OF ESTEEM

FOR

Ella "Ruth" McIntosh

WHEREAS, our Heavenly Father, in His infinite love and wisdom, saw fit to call home Ella "Ruth" McIntosh on December 29, 2024, and

WHEREAS, her dedication to Montgomery County Schools for thirty-five years as a teacher, were a living testament of her integrity and skill, and

WHEREAS, her loss will be deeply felt not only by those with whom she served, but also throughout her entire community and county.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Board of Education goes on record in expressing a sense of real loss and regret in her passing; that a copy of this resolution be conveyed to her family as an indication of our deep sympathy; and that a copy of the same be filed as a part of the permanent minutes of the Board of Education.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

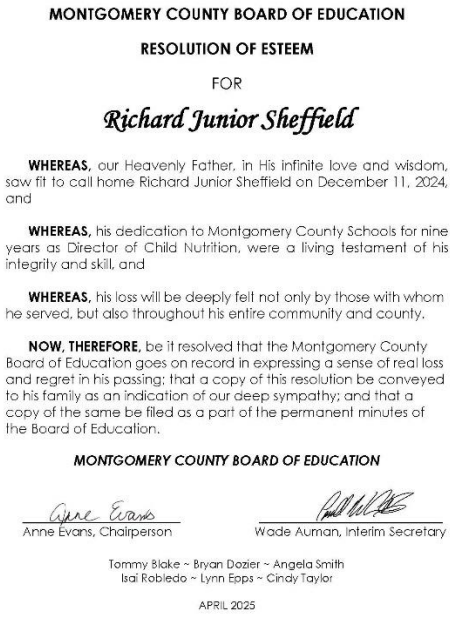
Anne Evans, Board Chair

Wade Auman, Interim Secretary

Tommy Blake ~ Bryan Dozier ~ Angela Smith
Isai Robledo ~ Lynn Epps ~ Cindy Taylor

APRIL 2025

A Resolution of Esteem for Richard Sheffield was presented to his family. Mr. Sheffield passed away on December 11, 2024. Board Chair Evans read the resolution as follows:



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION OF ESTEEM

FOR

Richard Junior Sheffield

WHEREAS, our Heavenly Father, in His infinite love and wisdom, saw fit to call home Richard Junior Sheffield on December 11, 2024, and

WHEREAS, his dedication to Montgomery County Schools for nine years as Director of Child Nutrition, were a living testament of his integrity and skill, and

WHEREAS, his loss will be deeply felt not only by those with whom he served, but also throughout his entire community and county.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Board of Education goes on record in expressing a sense of real loss and regret in his passing; that a copy of this resolution be conveyed to his family as an indication of our deep sympathy; and that a copy of the same be filed as a part of the permanent minutes of the Board of Education.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Anne Evans, Chairperson

Wade Auman, Interim Secretary

Tommy Blake ~ Bryan Dozier ~ Angela Smith
Isai Robledo ~ Lynn Epps ~ Cindy Taylor

APRIL 2025

Board Chair Evans then called upon Wade Auman for board recognitions. Mr. Auman called upon Janet Deaton, for the Certified and Classified Employees of the Month for Star Elementary School. Lisa Wood, Instructional Facilitator, was the classified winner. Kathy Singleton, Kindergarten/1st grade Teacher Assistant, was the certified winner.

Mr. Auman then recognized the District Spelling Bee winner Katelyn Jimenez-Ruiz from East Middle School.

Mr. Auman then recognized three MCEC students accepted into the 2025 NC Governor's School. Hillary Jimenez Perez (Mathematics), Alaysia Britton (English), and Isla Seawell (Natural Science).

Board Chair Evans stated the next item is the consent agenda. Ms. Evans then asked the board for approval of the consent agenda. Tommy Blake made the motion with Lynn Epps seconding. The board approved unanimously.

Board Chair Evans called upon Janet Deaton, principal at Star Elementary and Ms. Lisa Wood (IF), for their presentation on Student Driven Data Focused Community Centered. Ms. Deaton shared the school improvement proficiency goal for math in the 2024-25 school year is 62% or greater and the reading goal is 56% or greater. In 2023-24 Star was well above the state and district average in both 4th grade reading and math. While 5th grade reading and science and 3rd grade math were at or above the state and district average. The K, 1st and 2nd grade end-of-year mCLASS Percent Proficient were also above the 2024 district average. We saw strengths in our subgroups with our Hispanic and economically disadvantaged students performing well above the state average. Our English learners and students with disabilities performed at or above the state average with 50% of our English learners making progress. This is twice as high

as the state average of 25%. The 2023-24 school performance grade was also met by all our subgroups with our Hispanic and economically disadvantaged growing from D's to C's. The climate at Star is also one of our strengths. The school attendance and behavior are better than the district and state averages. The teacher turnover rate at Star is lower than the state average and our NC Teacher Working Conditions survey shows that 100% of our teachers feel we have a safe and positive school climate. Ms. Deaton and Ms. Wood stated that for continued success they are focusing on several key indicators from their School Improvement Plan to address areas where they did not grow. We do this by meeting with the teachers weekly, going over the new science standards, and developing new guidelines for the CKLA reading curriculum. We have weekly PLCs to allow teachers time to collaborate and we continue to have quarterly PDSA meetings to discuss curriculum standards across the county. We are also working to address transitions, and we will be having a whole school "meet my teacher day". All our students will be able to meet their teachers for the upcoming school year and we will be able to provide the parents with a list of the school supplies needed. By doing this we hope to ease the anxiety with the transitions and build communication between grade levels. We provide Morning Check-ins and Zones of Regulation to help students address their emotions and provide behavior intervention. The discipline data is reviewed by the PBIS Committee to look for any patterns. Ms. Douglas, our guidance counselor, developed the "Show UP" Challenge to help improve attendance by offering incentives. Individual students are recognized for the first half and the second half of the school year and classes with 95% or higher attendance can also earn incentives for the entire classroom to enjoy. We continually work on our positive school climate so that everyone wants to be here.

Board Chair Evans then called on Dr. Emily Shaw for policy reviews. Dr. Shaw stated the NCSBA released a policy memo that encouraged school districts to review all their local policies and determine whether any policies, regulations, or processes need to be modified in light of recent guidance from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. Policies that reference the terms "diversity" and/or "equity" and policies that reference "gender identity" were identified and recommended for review. This memo is for information purposes only and no action is necessary at this time. Attorney Max Garner and I reviewed the policies and found no specific concerns that the policies violate current law. I have enclosed the identified policies in your board packet for you to familiarize yourselves with and it is suggested that districts review and be aware of race and gender-related policies.

Board Chair Evans then called upon Wade Auman for Superintendent remarks. Mr. Auman stated that he would like to discuss some of the recent legislative developments and the impact they could have on our district. There are multiple bills being submitted but not all of them are associated with the school system. Senate bill 754: School Calendar Flexibility: A New Alternative, is a significant proposal, currently under consideration. Although this bill aims to provide our school district with increased flexibility with the setting of the academic calendar, it has requirements that will make it hard to implement. I understand that we have already approved our 2025-2026 school calendar, but we will need to revisit that decision if this bill goes into effect. Ms. Epps and I sat through a meeting with the School Board Association today. This bill has been introduced by a very influential senator, and it has a strong chance of becoming a law. The bill allows for two calendar options. One option maintains the current calendar law, with the earliest start date being the Monday closest to August 26. With this option we could again use the innovative calendar that we used this school year. The second option would be to start the Monday closest to August 19, but we would be required to end the school year on the Friday before Memorial Day. There are many other requirements in the law that we will need to work out if it becomes law. This proposed bill is still focused on the tourism industry in the

Eastern part of our state. If this new law were to be passed, we could face significantly stricter punishment by the state. If a district violates this newly established calendar parameter, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will investigate and report non-complying districts to the State Board of Education. The previous penalties for violation of school calendar law included the withholding of the Superintendents allotment. However, the new penalties would allow for the withholding of the allotments for the entire Central Office staff. The General Assembly could also impact the future governance of the district, which is unclear but could include the authority to remove the sitting Superintendent or possibly disband the School Board. The bill also will allow any resident or local business owner to pursue legal action against any non-compliance school board. We have already begun preliminary discussions to meet the needs of the MCS students to align with these two options, but we will continue to proactively prepare in case we need to make these potential adjustments. We want to ensure that any necessary changes serve the best interests of our students and be able to keep our community informed. Mr. Auman stated that they have already began putting together an updated calendar and that we can make the new options work, but we will have a short turnaround time, and we will need to reconvene the Calendar Committee to receive the school level input. However, due to the lack of teacher workdays and longer time between those workdays, he feels like our teachers will not like the newly proposed options. Ms. Epps suggested that everyone should reach out to their legislators and express what this could mean for our county.

Mr. Dozier then asked about any updates on the newly proposed cell phone ban bill. Mr. Auman stated that they had made some changes to the proposed bill, and it has become more lenient. Ms. Evans and Ms. Epps stated that they participated in a Zoom meeting on Friday and would be happy to share some of the information they received from other school districts regarding their cell phone use policy and how it is working for them.

Board Chair Evans then asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel and consult the board attorney. Bryan Dozier made the motion, with Tommy Blake seconding.

The following items were approved:

1) Board Minutes from March 3, 2025
2) Board Minutes from March 10, 2025
3) Board Minutes from March 27, 2025
4) Board Minutes from March 31, 2025
5) Personnel and Auxiliary Report

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS

PERSONNEL REPORT
Emily Shaw, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
April 7, 2025

A. Superintendent reports the acceptance of the following resignations/retirements:

Resignation/ Retirement	School/ Assignment	Effective Date
1) Susan Starnes Retirement	Montg. Learn. Academy Middle School ELA Teacher	6/30/2025
3) Ken Shephard Retirement	Central Office Groundskeeper II	4/1/2025
4) Carrie Watkins Resignation	East Middle 7th Grade Math Teacher	6/10/2025
5) Beth Tilley Resignation	Central Office School Psychologist	6/10/2025
6) Chris Metzger Resignation	Montg. Central High Physical Education Teacher	5/16/2025
7) Mack Gaddy Resignation	Troy Elementary Custodian	4/17/2025
8) Tammy Smith Retirement	Troy Elementary Child Nutrition	5/01/2025
9) Cheryl Hurley Retirement	Troy Elementary Child Nutrition	7/01/2025

B. Upon recommendation of the interim superintendent, approval of the following additions to the substitute teacher list:

Non-Certified	Record Check
1) Christopher Castro	Yes
2) Ashley Bone	Yes
3) Cameron Scott	Yes
4) Courtney Sasser	Yes
5) Sherry Shofe	Yes
6) Tanya Williams	Yes
7) Lorena Garcia Rivera	Yes
8) Jeorgi Bruton	Yes

Certified	Record Check
1) Anna Bottcher	Yes
2) Candace Biles-Lee, Star Elementary 1st/2nd Grade Combo Teacher	Yes

C. Report the following transfers:

Transfer/ Effective Date	From	To	Replacing
1) Kesha Collins 3/17/2025	West Middle Asst. Principal	Mt. Gilead Elem. Interim Principal	JaMese Black
2) Adriane Clarett 3/17/2025	Candor Elementary Assist. Principal	West Middle Assist. Principal	Kesha Collins
3) Dena R. Baber 3/7/2025	Star Elementary 1st/2nd Combo Teach.	Green Ridge Elem. 4th Grade Teacher	
4) Dawn Norman 3/24/2025	West Middle Teacher Assistant	Montg. Central High Exc. Child. T.A	Michelle Leitao
5) Tabitha Blake 3/17/2025	Candor Elementary Child Nutrition	Candor Elementary Custodian/Bus Driver	Francisco Cortes
6) Michelle Brady 5/01/2025	Central Office Payroll Benefits Spec.	Central Office Assist. Finance Officer	Sharon Baldwin
7) Andrea Duncanon 5/01/2025	Central Office Child Nutrition Assist.	Central Office Payroll/Benefits Spec.	Michelle Brady

D. Upon recommendation of the interim superintendent, approval of recommendation for employment of the following non-certified personnel:

Employee/ Effective Date	School/ Assignment	Record Check	Replacing
1) Barbara Pemberton 3/10/2025	West Middle ISS Coordinator/Bus Driver	Yes	Santrel Durham
2) Jorge Munoz 3/31/2025	Green Ridge Elem. Custodian/Bus Driver	Yes	Theodore Horne
3) John Brown TBD	East Middle P.T. Math Tutor	Pending	

E. Upon recommendation, approval of principal recommendation for employment of the following part-time certified employee:

Employee/ Effective Date	School/ Assignment	Record Check	Replacing
1) Haley Adkins TBD	East Middle P.T. Media Assistant	Pending	Stephanie Britt

F. Upon recommendation, approval of principal recommendation for employment of the following interim contracts for the 2024-2025 school year as provided by General Statute 115C-325:

Employee/ Effective Date	School/ Assignment	Record Check	Replacing
1) Brittany Gingerich 3/28/2025	East Middle CTE/Agriculture Teacher	Yes	Tracy Blake
2) Anna Bottcher 4/08/2025	Candor Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher	Yes	Frances Morris
3) Cristian Munoz 3/10/2025	West Middle Excep. Child./Inclusion Teacher	Yes	

G. Upon the recommendation of the interim superintendent, approval of the following coach:

West Middle School
Tennis Stephen Marshall

H. Report the following termination of employment:

Stephanie Britt, East Middle School, Part-Time Media Assistant
Effective 2/18/2025

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS
AUXILIARY REPORT
FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Upon recommendation, approval of release from Montgomery County Schools requested for the 2025-2026 school year.

Montgomery County Schools to Anson County Schools

-

Montgomery County Schools to Stanly County Schools

-

6) Budget Amendment

441 Page Street • P.O. Box 427
Troy, North Carolina 27371-0427
PHONE: (910) 576-6511 • FAX: (910) 576-2044

Attached you will find a budget amendment for your consideration for the year ending June 30, 2025.

Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Amendment # 6

State Funds

1) An increase of $313,883.00 to the State Budget Fund (Fund 1):

$78,073.00 increase to PRC 032 (State Exceptional Children Funds) – The state provided the district with an additional allotment for the Exceptional Children Program.

$178,750.00 increase to PRC 040 (School Safety Grant) – the state awarded the district funding for security equipment to increase safety in our school facilities.

$674.00 increase to PRC 012 (Driver Education) – The district received additional funding to support the district's driver education program.

$36,200.00 increase to PRC 089 (Special State Reserve for Exceptional Children) – the district was approved for funding to support a student in the exceptional children's program with needs that required contracting an additional service provider.

$20,186.00 increase to PRC 001 (Classroom Teachers) – the district's initial classroom teacher allotment was decreased because of the students enrolled in the NC Virtual Academy. However, the state's calculation was for the incorrect number of students and the district was overcharged. This represents the reimbursement that corrects that error.

Local Funds

2) No change to the Local Fund Budget (Fund 2)

Federal Funds

3) An increase of $1857.00 to the Federal Funds Budget (Fund 3):

Beginning this year, the district is required to implement a change in the way federal funds are reported. When the district receives federal grants, funds are typically available to the district for 27 months. For this reason, federal funds can be carried over for up to two years. In the past, the district combined previous funding with new funding into one budget, but beginning this year, the district must create a separate budget for each year's funding. For example, PRC 060 might have Budget Year 2023 funding, Budget Year 2024 funding and Budget Year 2025 funding whereas in the past we could lump all the funding into one budget.

$1857.00 increase to PRC 111 Year 2025 (Title III English Language Acquisition Funds) – The district received funding for the 2025 school year to be used for supporting English language learners.

Capital Outlay Funds

4) A decrease of $54,041.29 to the Capital Outlay Budget Fund (Fund 4):

$109,415.11 decrease to PRC 802.84 (Capital Outlay Expenses) – The district received a NC Schools Needs Based Capital Grant in 2023. When the budget was established for this grant at the beginning of the 2025 fiscal year, the full amount of the grant was budgeted, but the expenses for the previous two years were not deducted from the new budget amount. This amendment corrects this error by reducing the budget by the amount of the prior year's expenses in the amount of $109,415.11.

$10,595.09 increase to PRC 802.95 (Capital Outlay Expenses) – These funds were used to repair damage caused by a burst pipe in the field house at MCHS.

$31,927.00 increase to PRC 802.95 (Capital Outlay Expenses) – These funds were used to pay for fire alarm service contracts with Johnson Controls at the CTE Center and MCHS and to repair a leak in a chiller at MCHS.

$10,955.00 increase to PRC 802.95 (Capital Outlay Expenses) – These funds were used to replace a heat pump at Troy Elementary.

$1896.73 increase to PRC 802.95 (Capital Outlay Expenses) – These funds were used to repair security horns and strobes at Mt Gilead Elementary.

Child Nutrition

5) No change to the Child Nutrition Fund Budget. (Fund 5):

Special Local Fund 8

6) A decrease of $9159.49 to the Special Local Fund 8 Budget (Fund 8):

$9159.49 decrease to PRC 382 (US Dept of Ed PIM Grant) – Budget funds for year two were decreased by $9159.49. In reworking the budget to account for this decrease, purpose code 5000 funds were increased by $27,572.94, purpose code 6000 funds were decreased by $30,000.00 and purpose code 7000 funds were decreased by $6,732.43 for a net decrease of $9,159.49.

7) Overall, these adjustments resulted in an increase of $252,539.22 to the total 2024 - 2025 budget for Montgomery County Schools.

I will be available to answer any questions you may have.

This amendment is an action item and will require a vote.

Budget Amendment # 6

#6

Montgomery County Administration Unit

The Montgomery County Board of Education at a meeting on the 7th day of April 2025. passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
	STATE FUNDS		
	Revenues		
1.3100	State Revision #80 PRC 032	$78,073.00	
1.3100	State Revision #83 PRC 040	$178,750.00	
1.3100	State Revision #80 PRC 012	$674.00	
1.3100	State Revision #79 PRC 089	$36,200.00	
1.3100	State Revision #79 PRC 001	$20,186.00	
	Net Change in State Revenues	**$313,883.00**	
	Expenses		
1.5000.032	PRC 032 EC Funding	$78,073.00	
1.5000.040	PRC 040 Security Equipment Funding	$178,750.00	
1.5000.012	PRC 012 Driver Education	$674.00	
1.5000.089	PRC 089 Children with Special Needs	$36,200.00	
1.5000.001	PRC 001 Classroom Teacher funding	$20,186.00	
	Net Change in State Expenses	**$313,883.00**	
	Net Change in State Budget	**$313,883.00**	
Explanation: Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.			
Total Appropriation in Current Budget			**$31,508,882.00**
Amount of Increase			**$313,883.00**
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget			**$31,822,765.00**

Budget Amendment # 6

#6

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
	LOCAL FUNDS		
	Revenues		
	Expenses		
	Net Change in Local Revenues	$0.00	
	Net Change in Local Budget	**$0.00**	
Explanation: Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.			
Total Appropriation in Current Budget			**$7,533,867.56**
Amount of Increase			**$0.00**
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget			**$7,533,867.56**

Budget Amendment # 6

#6

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
	FEDERAL FUNDS		
	Revenues		
3.3600.111	PRC 111 English Language Acquisition	$1,857.00	
	Net Change in Federal Revenues	**$1,857.00**	
	Expenses		
3.5000.111	PRC 111 English Language Acquisition	$1,807.74	
3.8000.111	PRC 111 English Language Acquisition	$49.26	
	Net Change in Federal Expenses	**$1,857.00**	
	Net Change in Federal Budget	**$1,857.00**	
Explanation: **Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.**			
Total Appropriation in Current Budget			**$4,420,033.08**
Amount of Increase			**$1,857.00**
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget			**$4,421,890.08**

Budget Amendment # 6

#6

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
	CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND		
	Revenues		
4.4000.802	State Capital Improvement Grant		$109,415.11
4.4000.802	Repair Burst Pipe at MCHS Field House	10,595.09	
4.4000.802	Service contract on chillers and repair leake in chiller MCHS CTE	31,927.00	
4.4000.802	Repair heat pump at Troy Elementary	10,955.00	
4.4000.802	Repair horns and strobes at MGES	1,896.73	
	Net Change in Capital Outlay Revenues	**-$54,041.29**	
	Expenses		
4.9000.802	State Capital Improvement Grant		$109,415.11
4.9000.802	Repair Burst Pipe at MCHS Field House	10,595.09	
4.9000.802	Service contract on chillers and repair leake in chiller MCHS CTE	31,927.00	
4.9000.802	Repair heat pump at Troy Elementary	10,955.00	
4.9000.802	Repair horns and strobes at MGES	1,896.73	
	Net Change in Capital Outlay Expenses	**-$54,041.29**	
	Net Change in Capital Outlay Budget	**-$54,041.29**	

Explanation: **Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.**

Total Appropriation in Current Budget	**$4,124,043.71**
Amount of Increase	**-$54,041.29**
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget	**$4,070,002.42**

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
	CHILD NUTRITION FUND		
	Revenues		
	Expenses		
	Net Change in Child Nutrition Budget	**$0.00**	

Explanation: **Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.**

Total Appropriation in Current Budget	**$4,100,560.00**
Amount of Increase	**$0.00**
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget	**$4,100,560.00**

Budget Amendment # 6

#6

Expense Code	Description of Code	Increase	Decrease
	LOCAL FUND 8		
	Revenues		
8.3000.382	US Dept of Ed PIM Grant		$9,159.49
	Total Changes in Fund 8 Revenues	-$9,159.49	
	Expenses		
8.5000.382		$27,572.94	
8.6000.382			$30,000.00
8.7000.382			$6,732.43
	Total Change in Fund 8 Expenses	-$9,159.49	
	Net Change in Local Fund 8 Budget	**-$9,159.49**	

Explanation: Adjustments made for actual revenues and expenditures.	
Total Appropriation in Current Budget	**$16,849,798.39**
Amount of Increase	**-$9,159.49**
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget	**$16,840,638.90**

Summary of Budget Changes

Previous Budget	**$68,537,184.74**
State Budget Change	$313,883.00
Local Budget Change	$0.00
Federal Budget Change	$1,857.00
Capital Outlay Budget Change	-$54,041.29
Child Nutrition Budget Change	$0.00
Fund 8 Budget Change	-$9,159.49
Total Change in Budget	***$252,539.22***
Current Budget	**$68,789,723.96**

Passed by majority vote by the Board of Education of Montgomery County on the 7th day of April, 2025

Anne Evans
Chairman, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education

7) 2025-26 Alternative School's Modified Accountability

2025–26 Alternative School's Modified Accountability System Participation

To participate in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System, the local board of education must determine the option for each school eligible to be included in the modified system. If no option is selected, eligible schools will participate in the School Performance Grades (Option A) and will be placed in the 3-years insufficient data option.

LEA/Charter Name: Montgomery County Schools **LEA/Charter Number:** 620

List the alternative school(s) and the options determined by the local board. Complete **each column** in the table below.

School Name	School Code	Alternative School Accountability	Insufficient Data Option
Montgomery Learning Academy	310	☐Option A ☒Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☑Three Years
		☐Option A ☐Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☐Three Years
		☐Option A ☐Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☐Three Years
		☐Option A ☐Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☐Three Years
		☐Option A ☐Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☐Three Years
		☐Option A ☐Option B ☐Option C (additional information required)*	☐Return Scores ☐Three Years

* For schools selecting Option C, attach the school's proposed modifications, including evidence of the validity and reliability of the measures proposed.

Sign and date below:

LEA Superintendent/Charter School Director

Farrell W. Akman III — Signature — 4/8/25
Print Name — Date

LEA/Charter Test Coordinator

Print Name — Signature — Date

This document must be emailed to the attention of Ozella Wiggins at ozella.wiggins@dpi.nc.gov no later than **August 1, 2025.** This deadline is cited in North Carolina Administrative Code and must be met.

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Maurice 'Mo' Green, Superintendent of Public Instruction
www.dpi.nc.gov

March 14, 2025

TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM Michael Maher, Chief Accountability Officer MM
Division of Accountability

Tammy L. Howard, Senior Director TLH
Office of Accountability and Testing

2025–26 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS' MODIFIED ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM OPTIONS

This memo provides information on participating in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System for the 2025–26 school year. The decision to participate must be filed with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Office of Accountability and Testing by August 1, 2025. The State Board of Education policy ACCT-038 (16 NCAC 06G .0314) applies to all alternative schools, including charter schools approved to use the alternative accountability system (16 NCAC 06G .0519): Developmental Day Centers; and schools providing special education and related services in public separate settings to students with disabilities.

Alternative schools must be approved and recorded in the Educational Directory and Demographical Information Exchange (EDDIE) prior to the submission of a modified accountability system option.

The alternative accountability system is a supplement to School Performance Grades (SPG) as defined by G.S. §115C-83.15. It is not a substitute for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements. Thus, alternative schools and other eligible schools participating in the modified system using Options B or C will also have a SPG calculated, if there is sufficient data, for federal identifications. The SPG is used to identify these schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) as defined in the ESSA state plan. The designation of performance, as defined in ACCT-038 (16 NCAC 06G .0314), will be the designation displayed on the NC School Report Card and SPGs will not be used to determine low-performing school or low-performing district statuses.

Alternative School Modified Accountability System Option Determination

Schools participating in the modified system must annually submit their request. Schools may change the option from the prior year and are encouraged to review their previous selection. Charter schools submitting a request to participate must be approved to use the modified system in accordance with SBE Policy CHTR-020 (16 NCAC 06G .0518). As a reminder, local boards

must approve the request at an official board meeting prior to submission to the SBE.

The current system allows eligible schools to participate in one of three Options, Option A, Option B, or Option C:

Option A. Alternative schools participate in School Performance Grades as defined by G.S. §115C-83.15, **or**

Option B. Alternative schools are evaluated as defined in 16 NCAC 06G .0314, attached below, **or**

Option C. Alternative schools propose modifications to the accountability system for approval by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall approve proposed modifications to the system if a preponderance of the evidence proves that the modifications comprise valid and reliable measures of the achievement and growth of the school's students.

Option C requests must include an attachment of the proposed modifications that outlines the valid and reliable measures used to track the achievement and growth of students. Requests to participate in Option C must be submitted annually to the State Board of Education for approval at its October meeting. Once approved, a letter will be sent to the LEA/charter school with additional guidance regarding reporting outcomes from the proposed modified system.

Developmental Day Centers and schools providing special education and related services, as noted above, may select from Options B or C. The Office of Exceptional Children and the Office of Accountability and Testing will review the eligibility criteria of these schools and must approve their use of the alternative accountability modified system.

Local boards of education must approve the selected option of each identified school under their jurisdiction. For the 2025–26 school year, local boards must report this decision to the NCDPI's Office of Accountability and Testing by **August 1, 2025**.

Alternative School Insufficient Data Options Under ESSA

As required by the ESSA state plan, all schools participating in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System must select one of the following two options for the calculation of a SPG in the event the school does not have sufficient data to determine a SPG using current year data:

a. **Return Scores** - All data is returned to base (sending) schools within the local education agency (LEA). The alternative school, or other eligible school, is given the letter grade of the school where the highest percentage of students are sent back (this option does not apply to charter schools); **or**
b. **Three Years** - Use three (3) years of data to calculate the letter grade for the school.

Insufficient data option determinations must also be approved by the local or charter school board for each school under their jurisdiction. This decision must be reported to the NCDPI's Office of Accountability and Testing by **August 1, 2025.** All alternative or other eligible schools, as specified in ACCT-038 (16 NCAC 06G .0314), must have an insufficient data option determination even if there is the likelihood the school will have sufficient data.

Attached resources include (1) a description of the three options to participate in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System and (2) the form that LEAs/charter schools must use to report the options selected for their school(s). Please complete and submit the attached form with the appropriate signatures. For schools electing to participate in Option C, attach the school's proposed modifications including evidence that the modifications comprise valid and reliable measures.

All completed and signed forms with any attachments must be emailed to the attention of Ozella Wiggins (ozella.wiggins@dpi.nc.gov) by August 1, 2025. **This deadline is cited in North Carolina Administrative Code (16 NCAC 06G .0314) and must be met.** Failure to submit an option by August 1, results in the school being assigned a School Performance Grade (A–F) for reporting and accountability purposes. If you have questions or need further clarification regarding information contained within this memo, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

MM/TLH/ODW

c: Maurice Green, State Superintendent
Maria Pitre-Martin, Deputy State Superintendent
Carol Ann Hudgens, Senior Director, Office of Exceptional Children
Ashley Baquero, Director, Office of Charter Schools
Shannon Jordan, Section Chief, Testing Policy and Operations
Curtis Sonneman, Section Chief, Analysis and Reporting
Regional Accountability Coordinators
Public School Unit Test Coordinators

Attachment

2025–26 Alternative School's Modified Accountability System Participation

The local board of education shall determine the option that each alternative school in their jurisdiction will follow for participation in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System.

There are three ways to participate in the Alternative Schools' Modified Accountability System:

Option A. Alternative schools can participate in School Performance Grades as defined by G.S. §115C-83.15; **or**

Option B. Alternative schools electing to participate in the system as defined in 16 NCAC 06G .0314, **or**

Option C. The alternative school may propose modifications to the system for approval by the State Board of Education.

Option A: Participation in the modified system, using School Performance Grades as defined by G.S. §115C-83.15.

Option B: Participation in the modified system, evaluated as defined in 16 NCAC 06G .0314, as follows:

The components used in the overall school score shall be:

(1) Student Persistence (20%) - Student Persistence is defined as the percent of alternative students who remain enrolled in any North Carolina public school through the end of the school year.
(2) School Achievement (20%)
  (a) The School Achievement component uses the following indicators:
    (1) End-of-Grade (EOG) Reading and Mathematics Assessments at Grades 3–8
    (2) EOG Science Assessments at Grades 5 and 8
    (3) End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments in Biology, NC Math 1, NC Math 3 and English II
    (4) ACT®
    (5) ACT WorkKeys
    (6) 4-Year Graduation Rate
    (7) 5-Year Graduation Rate
    (8) Math Course Rigor
  (b) Three (3) years of data will be used for calculating school achievement.
(3) Growth (60%) - Growth will be calculated using EVAAS.

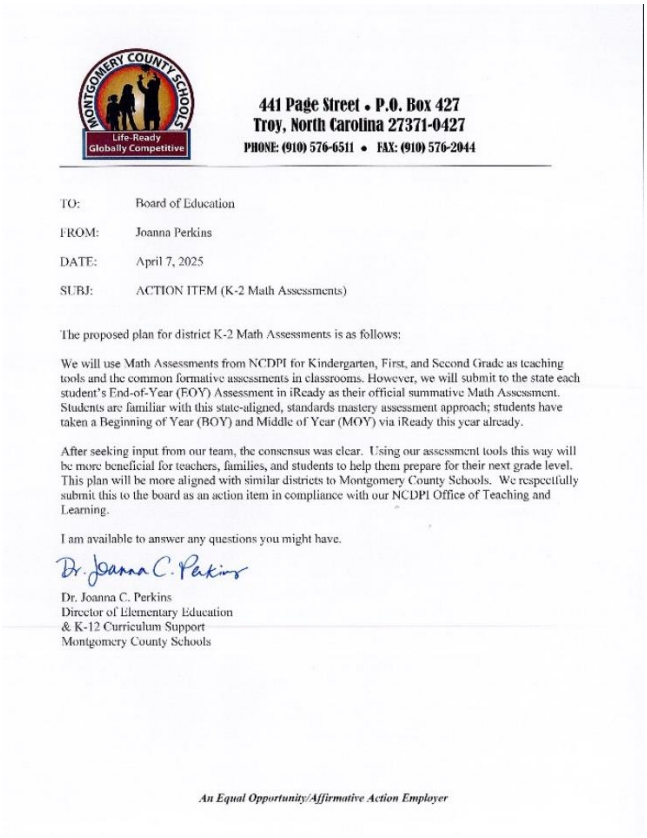
A change rating will be assigned to schools comparing their previous year to the current year.

(1) Progressing – indicates a change in the overall score from the previous year by at least +3 points.
(2) Maintaining – indicates a change in the overall score from the previous year by -2.9 to +2.9 points.
(3) Declining – indicates a change in the overall score from the previous year by at least -3 points.

Option C: Participation in the modified system, proposing modifications to the accountability system for approval by the State Board of Education.

(1) Proposed modifications must show a preponderance of evidence proves that the modifications comprise valid and reliable measures of achievement and growth of the school's students.
  a. Schools may elect to use their data to assign themselves a designation; however, designations cannot mirror those already used in school accountability reporting.
(2) A request to participate in Option C, including a detailed description of the proposed modifications with evidence of validity and reliability, must be submitted annually to the SBE for approval at its October meeting.
  a. If approved, the school must submit a final report on how the modifications improved performance of the school's students for posting publicly. Additional guidance on the reporting requirements will be provided after approval.

8) K-2 Math Assessment Plan



MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS
Life-Ready Globally Competitive

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PHONE: (910) 576-6511 • FAX: (910) 576-2044

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Joanna Perkins

DATE: April 7, 2025

SUBJ: ACTION ITEM (K-2 Math Assessments)

The proposed plan for district K-2 Math Assessments is as follows:

We will use Math Assessments from NCDPI for Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade as teaching tools and the common formative assessments in classrooms. However, we will submit to the state each student's End-of-Year (EOY) Assessment in iReady as their official summative Math Assessment. Students are familiar with this state-aligned, standards mastery assessment approach; students have taken a Beginning of Year (BOY) and Middle of Year (MOY) via iReady this year already.

After seeking input from our team, the consensus was clear. Using our assessment tools this way will be more beneficial for teachers, families, and students to help them prepare for their next grade level. This plan will be more aligned with similar districts to Montgomery County Schools. We respectfully submit this to the board as an action item in compliance with our NCDPI Office of Teaching and Learning.

I am available to answer any questions you might have.

Dr. Joanna C. Perkins

Dr. Joanna C. Perkins
Director of Elementary Education
& K-12 Curriculum Support
Montgomery County Schools

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Following approval of the consent agenda, Board Chair Evans asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryan Dozier made the motion with Lynn Epps seconding; the meeting was duly adjourned.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Montgomery County Central Office.

_____ _____

Anne Evans, Board Chair Wade Auman, Interim Secretary